MEMOIRS

Royal. 1831

OF THE

LIFE AND WRITINGS

OF THE

CELEBRATED LITERARY CHARACTE .

THE LATE

Dr. JOHN LEYDEN,

OF THE

Honourable East India Company's Establishment.

By THE Rev. JAMES MORTON.

CALCUTTA,

1821.

263

263

RAJA BENFORD'S ... THE ...

MEMOIRS

OF

DR. LEYDEN.

DR. JOHN LEYDEN, the subject of the following short Memoirs, was born on the 8th day of September, 1775, at Denholm, a village on the banks of the Teviot, in the parish of Cavers, and county of Roxburgh. He was the eldest child of John and Isabella Leyden, who had, besides him, three sons and two daughters. The maiden name of his mother was Scott. The forefathers of both his parents had, for several generations, been farmers on the estates of the ancient family of Douglas of Cavers.

About a year after his birth his parents removed to Hentawshiel, a lonely

cottage, about three miles from Denholm, on the farm of Nether Tofts, which was then held by Mr. Andrew Blythe, his mother's uncle. Here they lived for sixteen years, during which his father was employed, first as shepherd, and afterwards in managing the whole business of the farm;* his relation having had the misfortune to lose his sight. The cottage, which was of very simple construction, was situated in a wild pastoral spot, near the foot of Ruberslaw, on the verge of the heath which stretches down from the sides of that majestic hill. The simplicity of the interior corresponded with that of its outward appearance. But the kind affections, cheerful content, intelligence, and piety that dwelt beneath its lowly roof, made it such a scene as poets have imagined in their descriptions of the innocence and happiness of rural life.

Leyden was taught to read by his grandmother, who, after her husband's death, resided in the family of her

* See Note [A.]

263

son. Under the care of this venerable and affectionate instructress his progress was rapid. That insatiable desire of knowledge, which afterwards formed so remarkable a feature in his character, soon began to shew itself. The historical passages of the Bible first caught his attention; and it was not long before he made himself familiarly acquainted with every event recorded in the Old and New Testaments. One or two popular works on Scottish history next fell into his hands; and he read with enthusiasm the history of the heroic deeds of Wallace and Bruce, and of the brave resistance of his countrymen to the ecclesiastical tyranny of the last kings of the house of Stuart. After he had read all the books in his father's possession, the shelves of the neighbouring peasants were laid under contribution, and, amongst other works which they furnished him with, he was greatly delighted to find the Arabian Nights Entertainments, Sir David Lindsay's Poetical Works,

Milton's Paradise Lost, and Chapman's Translation of Homer.

At nine years of age he was sent to the parish school of Kirktown, about two miles from Henlawshiel. He continued at this school nearly three years, learning writing and arithmetic, and the rudiments of Latin grammar; but his progress during this period was interrupted by two very long vacations, occasioned by the death of one, and the removal of another school-master, to a more eligible situation.* During these intervals he often assisted his father in tending his flock, and sometimes supplied his place when occasion called him away.

His parents had too much discernment not to perceive that their son was gifted by nature with extraordinary talents, and rightly appreciating this valuable distinction, they strove to procure him the best means of im-

* His first master was Mr. Thomas Wilson, whose successor was Mr. Walter Scott, who, upon his removal, was succeeded by Mr. Andrew Scott.

provement in their power. They therefore placed him at Denholm, under the tuition of the Rev. James Duncan, Pastor of a congregation of Cameronians, a religious sect professing the faith of the Church of Scotland, but refusing to acknowledge the legitimacy of a Sovereign who has not subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant. This worthy Minister, who in more respects than one resembles the Clergyman in Goldsmith's Deserted Village, had a very limited number of pupils,—seldom more than six or seven—whom he taught Latin and Greek.

Leyden applied himself to his new studies with invincible ardour and unwearied diligence. The delight and admiration which he had felt from reading the translation of Homer, made him look forward with keen anticipation to the stores of ancient literature, which were as yet beyond his reach. Of the eagerness of his desire for knowledge it may not be improper to relate an anecdote which

took place at this time. Denholm being about three miles from his home, which was rather too long a walk, his father was going to buy him an ass to convey him to and from school. Leyden, however, was unwilling, from the common prejudice against this animal, to encounter the ridicule of his school-fellows by appearing so ignobly mounted, and would at first have declined the offered accommodation. But no sooner was he informed that the owner of the ass happened to have in his possession a large book in some learned language, which he offered to give into the bargain, than his reluctance entirely vanished, and he never rested until he had obtained this literary treasure, which was found to be *Calepini Dictionarium Octolingue.*

After he had enjoyed the benefit of Mr. Duncan's instructions above two years, he was thought sufficiently qualified to go to the University of Edinburgh, to which his father now resolved to send him, that he might prepare

himself by the usual course of study for the clerical profession, which was the object of his earliest ambition. In the month of November, 1790, he arrived at Edinburgh, which is a long day's journey from his home. His father conducted him half way with a horse, which they rode alternately, and then left him to pursue the rest of his journey on foot. *

According to the rules prescribed for students intended for the Scottish Church, his first winter at college was devoted entirely to the study of Greek and Latin. His hours of private study were arranged upon a regular plan from which, for several years, he seldom departed; a certain portion of time being allotted to preparation for each class, or lecture; but the greater part of his time was employed in desultory and general reading, improving with eagerness the opportunities which the College Library, the Circulating Libraries, and the private col-

* See note [B.]

lections of his friends now afforded him.

It may easily be supposed that with such talents and application he could not fail of being distinguished as a scholar. The very first time that he stood up to be examined in the Greek class, he acquitted himself in such a manner as called forth the warmest applause from Professor Dalzel. This approbation was the more judiciously bestowed by the Professor, and was the more grateful to Leyden, as at first his rustic appearance, and strong Teviotdale accent excited a laugh among some of the other students;—as often happens when a student from the country, with bashful countenance, home-spun coat, and still more homely *speech*, makes his first appearance in the College of King James the Sixth.

In the month of May, when the classes broke up, he returned home to Henlawshiel. The scene of his studies in fine weather, during this summer, was in a pastoral glen, about a furlong

from his father's cottage. Here, about half way up the bank, he had formed a rude sort of bower, partly scooped out of the earth, and covered with fern and rushes. A mountain rivulet, which, after dashing over a precipice at the head of the glen, runs in mazy windings through scenes of wild grandeur till it reaches the Teviot, flowed beneath. This retreat afforded him that quiet so necessary to his studies, and which could not so easily be found within the well-peopled cottage. Here also he had before his eyes some of those striking scenes and appearances of nature, which from his earliest years he delighted to observe, and which he has delineated with so much feeling and truth in his Scenes of Infancy.

In the ensuing November he again repaired to Edinburgh, and began to study Mathematics and Logic, under Professors Playfair and Finlayson, continuing at the same time to attend the Greek and Latin classes. The summer following he was employed as assistant in a school at Cloven

Ford, a small village on the banks of the Cadan, a rapid stream which falls into the Tweed, a little above the Yair. Here he became acquainted with Nicol the Poet, with whom he began a poetical correspondence in the Scottish dialect, which he soon abandoned.

In the winter of 1792-3. he attended the Lectures an Moral Philosophy, Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Natural History. Actuated by an eager desire of knowledge, he pursued with diligence and success every branch of learning to which he applied himself, yet it does not appear that the course of his academical studies was marked with any strong predilection. Of the Professors under whom he studied, he obtained the particular notice only of Dalzel and Finlayson. To them he was indebted for employment in assisting the studies of others, while he was promoting his own.

The following summer, 1793, he lived chiefly at Nether Tofts, with his venerable relation Andrew Blythe.

This good old man was warmly attached to him, and at an earlier period had often fed his youthful fancy, by reciting to him tales and ballads founded on popular superstitions, and on the daring exploits of Border Chieftains and Warriors, which, in his own youth, had been the frequent amusement of the farmer's fire-side in winter nights.

Upon his return to College, at the end of the vacation, he began to attend the course of Lectures on Divinity and Church History, given by Professors Hunter and Hardie. Every student must attend these Lectures four years before he can be a candidate for the ministerial office in the Scottish Church. In that period he must also write a certain number of Discourses upon subjects proposed by the Professors, to be read publicly in the class. At that time the students were allowed to make remarks upon each other's compositions, after which the Professor delivered his own sentiments, both with regard to the Discourses, and the

criticisms to which they had been subjected. Upon these occasions Leyden did not fail to distinguish himself, and soon gained the reputation of a very able critic.

Before this, he had taken much pains to accustom himself to speak in public extempore, an accomplishment the more valuable to the clergy of Scotland, because their duty often calls them to assist at the meetings of the presbyteries and provincial synods, or of the general assembly of the church. With this view, he had, at an early period of his accademic studies, joined, a society which met once a week in one of the rooms of the college, for improvement in literary composition and public speaking. The name by which it was distinguished was the Literary Society, and in the small number of its members it had the honour of comprehending the most eminent of his contemporary'students. In it he became acquainted with Mr. Brougham, and the late much lamented Mr. Horner, and formed a friendship

of peculiar intimacy with Mr. William Erskine, now of Bombay, and Dr Thomas Brown, now Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. Amongst the other distinguished members may be enumerated James Reddie, Esq. Advocate; the Rev. Robert Lundie, Minister of Kelso; the Rev. William Gillespie, Minister of Kells; and the Rev. Dr. Logan, Minister of Chirnside, a friend whom Leyden highly valued.

Leyden's first attempts to speak in the society were very unsuccessful, and more than once procured him the mortification of being laughed at by his associates. But his perseverance was not to be overcome. The resolute and manly spirit which supported him, on this and every similar occasion, may be understood from what he said to one of his friends, a person of great abilities and learning, who belonged to the same society, but who, from an excess of modesty, had never attempted to make a speech. "I see what will happen," said Leyden to him one

day, after having in vain exhorted him to overcome his timidity,—"I shall, through constant practice, at last be able to harangue, whilst you, through dread of the ridicule of a few boys, will let slip the opportunity of learning this art, and will continue the same diffident man through life." His words were verified, as far at least as regarded himself, for by the time when he entered upon his theological studies, he was able to speak in public with ease and fluency.

Some time afterwards, a society was instituted by the most distinguished members of the Literary Society, upon a more comprehensive plan, under the name of the Academy of Physics, which was dissolved by the dispersion of the members, after it had existed two years. To this institution belonged Leyden, Dr. Thomas Brown, J. A. Murray, Esq. Advocate, Francis Jeffery, Esq. Advocate, the Rev. Sidney Smith, and several other young men of distinguished abilities. The practice of writing abstracts of

new works of science, corresponded with the plan of the Edinburgh Review, established about this time, and to which the members of this society were among the earliest contributors.

Leyden passed the summer of 1794, and the following year in the country with his parents, who now resided at Cavers, a small village beside which the parish church is situated, and near it the mansion of the ancient family of Douglas of Cavers. Here, his father's cottage not affording him sufficient retirement, he studied during week days in the church, a gloomy old building, nearly surrounded with a thick grove of lofty beeches and elms, which inclose the church-yard and darken it with their shade. Some of the neighbouring rustics, who regarded the church with superstitious awe, and firmly believed it to be haunted, formed strange surmises about the nature of his pursuits. Among other superstitious notions, the relics of former times, entertained by the more simple in that part of the country, was the

belief that the occult sciences were privately studied at Oxford. This opinion was so prevalent, that the term "Oxford scholar" was synonymous with "one skilled in magic or the black art." It was also naturally imagined that the same mysterious knowledge might be acquired at Edinburgh, by those hardy enough to seek it. When, therefore, it was understood that Leyden resorted daily to this abode of terror, and remained there alone from morning to the hour of twilight, studying books written in strange characters, it was no wonder that he began to be suspected of being versed in the unhallowed learning of the South. This evil report, however, did him good rather than harm. The ludicrous awe with which it caused him to be regarded, amused him, while it prevented his solitude from being disturbed by idlers.

At this time he was kindly allowed admittance, during certain hours in the morning, to the library at Cavers House, where he found many valuable

works in old English and foreign literature, which had been collected by the Douglas family in the course of several generations.

He had now made considerable progress in the Hebrew and Arabic languages, and his mind had taken that bent towards Eastern learning, which, with his love of poetry, were the most striking features of his literary character. The writer of this memoir remembers having seen him at this time, write a letter in Hebrew to one of his college friends. It was his custom, every evening, when he left his study in the church, to bring his Hebrew Bible with him under his arm; and, during family worship, when his father read a chapter in the English translation, he kept his eye upon the original text.

Whoever has read Burns's beautiful poem, "The Cotter's Saturday Night," knows, that in the family devotions of the Scotch, they first sing together a portion of a Psalm, after which the head of the family reads a chapter of

the Bible, and then concludes with offering up a comprehensive prayer. Leyden, being now a student of Theology, often performed the last part of this sacred duty instead of his father, and his pious effusions were remarkable for their richness in scriptural expressions, and for the chaste fervour with which they were uttered.

In the winter of 1794-5, he formed an acquaintance, which was soon improved into a cordial intimacy and friendship, with Dr. Robert Anderson, who was then employed in editing his well known and valuable collection of the works of the British Poets, and who was also the reputed editor of the Edinburgh Literary Magazine. Leyden availed himself of this Miscellany, to publish some of his juvenile attempts at poetry, having first submitted them to the judgment and advice of his intelligent and excellent friend, who, from the first justly appreciated his talents, and encouraged his efforts. The earliest specimen of his poetry which met the public eye, was

"An elegy on the Death of a Sister;" printed in the Magazine for April, 1795. During the summer, he wrote his picturesque verses, inscribed "Ruberslaw," in which he gave vent to the feelings and fancies with which his mind was early impressed by the wild and romantic scenery which first met his view, and which he afterwards, with the same enthusiasm, more fully delineated in his "Scenes of Infancy." It was printed in the Magazine for September, along with the second part of "the Descent of Odin," from the Norse tongue, omitted by Gray, when he translated the former part. These, and many other pieces which he contributed to the same publication, were distinguished by the signature "J. L. Banks of the Teviot."

His long-continued friendship with Dr. Anderson, introduced him to the acquaintance of other distinguished literary persons whom he frequently met with at his house. Among these was Dr. Alexander Murray, who was afterwards raised to the Professorship

of Hebrew in the University of Edinburgh, and has since been cut off by an early death, after he had lived to express in language equally tender and elevated, his grief for the death of his friend.* This eminent scholar was likewise born of humble parents, and had far greater difficulties to struggle with than Leyden,—difficulties which, were they fully disclosed, could not fail to increase the lustre of his name. They were both devoted to Philological pursuits, and entered keenly together upon the study of the Eastern tongues. Murray once observed to Dr. Anderson that there was nobody in Edinburgh whom he should be so much afraid to contend with in languages and philology as Leyden; and it is remarkable that the latter, without knowing this, once expressed himself to the same person, in the same terms, in commendation of Murray's learning.

The summer of 1795 was the last which he spent entirely in the country

* See Note [C.]

with his parents. Upon his return to Edinburgh in winter, whilst he continued his Theological studies, he was induced to devote some of his hours to the instruction, in private, of a few pupils; and the same employment detained him there next summer. Upon the recommendation of Professor Dalzel, he soon after undertook the office of tutor to the sons of Mr. Campbell of Fairfield, in whose family he continued about three years. The pecuniary fruits of this employment of his time and abilities were devoted to his farther improvement. He now began to attend the Lectures on Medicine in the University, and laboured to acquire a knowledge of that profession to which he looked forward as a resource if he should fail of obtaining preferment in the church.

In the winter of 1797-8 he accompanied two of his pupils to the University of St. Andrews, where he cultivated the acquaintance and friendship of Professor Hunter, well known for his classical erudition, and no less

estimable for the private worth and urbanity of his character.

As he had gone through the regular course of theological studies, and had undergone part of his trials as a candidate for the clerical office before the Presbytery of Edinburgh, he was now transferred to the Presbytery of St. Andrews, by whom, after due trial and examination, he was approved, and in May, 1798, licensed to preach. He soon after returned to Edinburgh, and from this time frequently appeared in the pulpit in different churches of that city and its vicinity. His manner of delivery was not graceful, and the tones of his voice, when extended so as to be heard by a large audience, were harsh and discordant. He was not, therefore, remarkably successful as a preacher, yet by the judicious his discourses were justly prized for the impressive vigour of their style, the originality and beauty of the illustrations which arrested and fixed the attention, and for the sound and rational piety which

they breathed. The following extract from one of his sermons may serve as a specimen. The text is Galatians, chap. iv. ver. 18. "But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing."—"There is another species of zeal where vanity deforms the religious affections. This zeal is ostentatiously forward and obtrusive, and only lives in the admiration of the vulgar. Before it flames forth vehemently, it requires to be puffed up by the breath of popular applause. It glimmers with a false and deceitful light, and like the hovering fire of the marsh shines only to bewilder and mislead the ignorant and the weak. Dependent entirely on popular opinion, it is more extravagant in its effects than that zeal which proceeds from constitutional warmth. It manifests itself by a servile fawning spirit that crouches to all the little arts that can attract the vulgar,—to the despicable tricks of religious quackery, and the meanness of personal abuse. It will adopt the pride of humility, and seems to

say with the hypocritical Jehu, 'Come and see my zeal for the Lord.' Jehu, a man of great ability and energy of character, lived in Israel when the kingdom flourished. The Lord raised him to the throne, and ordered him to extirpate the Royal family, and exterminate the worship of Baal. As this order coincided with his ambitious spirit, he performed it with faithfulness and alacrity. To one of the nobles of Israel, whose support and favour he wished to acquire, he cried, 'come and see my zeal for the Lord.' But history likewise records, that when his pride was gratified, and he was settled firmly on the throne, Jehu took no heed to walk in the ways of the Lord God of Israel, with all his heart, for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, who made Israel to sin.—When we observe zeal assuming a threatening aspect, and a menacing tone, when we observe her fierce against persons instead of errors, and fomenting dissention in the name of the Lord, then we are always to sus-

pect the interference of pride. True religion is the enemy of violence and discord. Our Lord when he prayed for his murderers, taught us how his cause is to be avenged. Confound not, I beseech you, my friends, the cause of religion with its professors, nor impute the enormities of human passion to the wisdom which is from above. The records of religion are deposited in your hands; if you find there the traces of blood, except the blood of her disciples shed for the truth, with injustice shall I assert her gentleness and charity. But there you shall only behold affections of kindness and love, acts of sublime benevolence, and examples of patience, mildness, and mercy."

About this time the celebrity of Mungo Park's Travels in Africa, which had recently been published, suggested to Leyden the idea of collecting all the information that had ever been made public respecting that quarter of the globe, so little known to Europeans. He immediately set

about the execution of this design, and soon afterwards published the result of his enquiries in a very interesting 12mo volume of about 400 pages, entitled, "A Historical and Philosophical Sketch of the Discoveries and Settlements of the Europeans in Northern and Western Africa, at the close of the eighteenth century." This work he afterwards undertook to enlarge into four volumes octavo, and had proceeded so far in it that 176 pages were printed when the undertaking was broken through by his departure for India. The design has lately been partly carried into effect by one of his friends, Mr. Hugh Murray, who, with an ability and diligence of research not unworthy of his predecessor, has extended it to two octavo volumes, in which he has incorporated both Leyden's original work and his unpublished fragment.

His extraordinary talents and acquirements began now to be very generally known, and procured him the regard of some of the most distinguish-

ed persons in the Scottish Metropolis, and an introduction into the first circles of society, in a city, in which, perhaps more than in any other, literary merit it the highest claim to distinction. He was honoured, in particular, with the friendship of the Duchess of Gordon, Lady Charlotte Campbell, and Miss Graham of Gartmore, not more distinguihed for rank and fashion, than for their taste and understanding. He delighted in their society and conversation, and notwithstanding the repulsive sharpness of his native accent, and upon most occasions, his almost studied neglect of fashionable manners, made himself highly agreeable to them.

In the autumn of 1799, Richard Heber, Esq. of Brazen-Nose College, Oxford, well known as a scholar and antiquary, came to Edinburgh and continued during the winter, attracted by the society he found there, and the occupation of investigating the history of Ancient Scottish Literature. Leyden was introduced to him by their

common friend Dr. Anderson, and was happy to assist him in reading the compositions of the old Scottish Poets. Their acquaintance was soon improved into a mutual friendship, which had a considerable influence on Leyden's literary pursuits and rising fame.

About this time Mr. Constable of Edinburgh, had formed the design of re-printing the "Complaynt of Scotland," an ancient and very scarce political tract in the Scottish language, the work of an anonymous author, which was first published in the year 1548. By the recommendation of Mr. Heber and Dr. Anderson, Leyden became the editor of this work, which he has enriched with a glossary and a preliminary dissertation of 280 pages octavo, in which he has illustrated, with wonderful acuteness and diligence, various points of Scottish Antiquity. He had engaged to write only a short preface, but found the subject so interesting, that he could hardly be prevailed on to stop, and would have added "An Examination

of the Style of the Complaynt," and an Essay on the Scottish Language, had not the fixed price of the volume forbidden him to swell it to a larger size. The edition was limited to 150 copies, and was published in the year 1801.

To Mr. Heber he owed his introduction to the Rev. Sidney Smith, Mr. Walter Scott, and other distinguished literary characters. Mr. Scott had not then given to the public any of those justly celebrated works by which he has since acquired an imperishable name. He had at that time collected a considerable portion of the materials of the "Ministrelsy of the Scottish Border;" which he communicated to Leyden, with a wish for his co-operation and assistance in the work. He embraced with zeal a proposal which was connected with the favourite associations of his early years, and proved himself an able and active assistant, both in collecting the traditionary ballads of the Border from oral recitation, and in illustrat-

ing the local antiquities and popular superstitions of his native country. The Dissertation on Fairy superstition, in particular, in the second volume, is known to have been written by him, but somewhat altered and improved by the editor, with his consent. He was the author also of two odes, and three legendary poems, of extraordinary merit, in the same collection. The work was published in 1801, in two volumes, octavo. A supplementary volume was afterwards added.

In June, 1800, he paid a visit to his parents, on hearing that his father, who had long been subject to a severe bilious disorder, was dangerously ill. Having persuaded him to drink the salubrious waters of Gilsland, a village on the borders of Cumberland, he accompanied him thither himself, and had the satisfaction of seeing him restored to perfect health, in the short space of a fortnight. In the mean time he made an excursion to the lakes and magnific-

ent scenery in the neighbourhood. He likewise availed himself of the opportunity which this journey afforded, of collecting the gleanings of the historical and romantic ballads of the Border; and of surveying the scenes which they describe, with a view to illustrate the local allusions.

Very soon after this he set out on another tour, in company with two young foreigners, natives of Germany, travelling in Scotland for improvement, to whom he had been recommended as a companion, whose talents and acquirements might prompt their curiosity, and assist their enquiries. They left Edinburgh in the beginning of July, and after visiting the most interesting parts of the Highlands and Western Isles, they returned by the way of Aberdeen, along the eastern coast, in the end of September. In this journey he availed himself of every opportunity to collect information with regard to the Gaëlic poetry and traditions; and was particularly solicitous to learn every thing which

might throw light upon the disputed authenticity of the poems of Ossian, of which he had long been an admirer. He wrote an accotnt of his excursion and researches, which he once intended to publish, but changed his mind.

In 1802 he was employed in conducting the Scots Magazine, of which a third series was then begun, upon a plan corresponding to the original series, as an authentic record of the literature and domestic history of Scotland. It was conducted with great ability, and contained many excellent papers by Leyden, and his friend Dr. Murray, to whom, after six months, he resigned the editorship, that he might devote himself entirely to other pursuits, which then required all his attention.

He was also the editor of a small volume, which was publised the same year, under the title of "Scottish Descriptive Poems," containing, besides one or two short pieces, "Wilson's Clyde," and "Albania," both of

which had become very scarce, and were little known, though possessed of sufficient merit, in his opinion, and that of other good judges of poetry, to entitle them to preservation from oblivion. Of Albania, only one copy was known to exist; which he obtained through the kindness of Professor Glennie, of Aberdeen, who prevailed upon his relation, the venerable Dr. Beattie, to whom it belonged, to lend it for the use of the new edition. It is written in blank verse, and in praise of Scotland. The author, whose name and history are unknown, appears to have lived about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Clyde was printed from a manuscript copy, in the author's hand-writing, in the possession of his daughter, compared with a printed copy belonging to Dr. Robert Anderson, who furnished some of the notes. It was accompanied with a life of Wilson, by the editor.

In the mean time, Leyden began to be anxious about his future settlement

in life. The clerical profession, which had been his early choice, he still preferred to every other: but he had no near or certain prospect of obtaining a living. His expectations had been twice disappointed; once by the failure of an arrangement, by which he was to have been appointed assistant and successor to the minister of Cavers, his native parish; and a second time, when in prospect of a vacancy, which did not take place, in the church of Duddingstone, near Edinburgh, he had obtained from the Marquis of Abercorn, the patron of the parish, the promise of a presentation to the living.* He saw his contemporaries, one after another, provided for in the church, or successfully pursuing some other honourable profession; whilst he grew weary of the routine of private tuition, and impatient of the drudgery of literary employment, which was both unprofitable and precarious.

In these circumstances his thoughts turned upon the design which he had

* See Note [D.]

often before had in his mind, of undertaking a journey of discovery into the interior parts of Africa; provided he could obtain the patronage of the Sierra Leone Company. But his friends, alarmed for his safety, when they saw him bent upon this difficult and dangerous project, persuaded him to look upon Asia as a quarter more likely to reward his search with important discoveries, particularly in literature and philology; and one of them offered to use his influence in procuring him some appointment in the service of the East India Company. Leyden, who had long before felt a strong inclination towards India, and an ambition to distinguish himself in the learning of the East, gladly embraced this proposal. It happened, that the only appointment which his friend could procure for him was that of Assistant Surgeon. Finding himself therefore obliged to revive his medical knowledge, he devoted himself entirely to this object, and after a short period of intense application,

was examined by the College of Surgeons, and obtained his diploma. At the same, conceiving that it might be of advantage for him to have the higher degree of M. D. which circumstances did not allow him to procure at Edinburgh, he very readily obtained it from his friends in the University of St. Andrews.

In the month of December, 1802, he paid a farewell visit to his parents, and after staying with them a few days, set out for London, having received information. that the ship Hindostan, in which he was to embark for India, was expected to sail about the middle of January. But, when that period came, he was prevented from embarking by a severe attack of the cramp in his stomach. This proved in the end a very fortunate illness, for the Hindostan, on her way to the Downs, was wrecked on Margate sands, when a considerable number of the persons on board perished.

It was now settled that he should proceed to Madras, in the Hugh Inglis,

which was not to sail till the beginning of April. By this arrangement, he was enabled to spend nearly three months in Lodon, where he found several of his friends, in whose society he passed this interval in the most agreeable manner. Those to whom he was most obliged for their kind attention to him, were the late Mr. Ellis, the author of "Specimens of the Early English Poets," and Mr. Heber. He was introduced to many of the most eminent literary characters of the Metropolis, to most of whom his reputation as a man of learning and genius was already known. He made an excursion to Oxford with Mr. Heber, and was exceedingly well received by Bishop Cleaver, Professors White, Ford, and Winstanley, and other learned men of that University, where he stayed several days. In London, he was introduced to several distinguished characters among the nobility, and had frequent opportunities of extend- his knowledge of the world, by mixing with the assemblies of privileged

rank and fashion. He was very well received in particular, by Lord Castlereagh, the Marquis of Abercorn, and the Honourable Mr. Greville, and was by them strongly recommended to Lord William Bentinck, who had been newly appointed Governor of Madras, and to whose kindness and patronage Leyden was afterwards much indebted.

During his stay in London, he prepared for the press his beautiful poem "The Scenes of Infancy," in which he has united interesting allusions to popular superstitions, and local history, with a highly animated description of that part of Scotland which gave him birth. Of this poem, it has been said that "in genuine feeling and fancy, "as well as in harmony and ele-"gance of composition, it can encounter "very few rivals in the English lan-"guage. It touches so many of the "genuine strings of the lyre, with the "hand of inspiration; it draws forth "so many tender notes, and carries "our eyes and our hearts so utterly

"among those scenes with which the "real Bard is conversant, that we, "for a moment, enjoy some portion "of the creative powers of the poet "himself. No where laboured, stu-"died, or affected, he writes in a "stream of natural eloquence, which "shews the entire predominance of "his emotion over his art."*

The principal defect of the "Scenes of Infancy," is the want of connection between its different parts, which were mostly written at different times, several years before, and at first without any view to unity of design. It had formerly been announced as about to be published under the title of "The Vale of Teviot." He now changed the title, and added several passages expressive of his feelings upon the prospect of parting from his friends, and bidding farewell to his native land. It was printed soon after his departure, under the superintendance of his friend Dr. Thomas Brown, who is himself entitled to a

* Gentleman's Magazine for May, 1812.

high rank among the writers of Poetry, who, in the present day, have so greatly enriched the literature of Britain.

On the seventh day of April, 1803, Leyden went on board the Hugh Inglis, and proceeded to Madras. Among his fellow passengers were several individuals of excellent talents and information, whose society beguiled the tediousness of the voyage, and with whom he afterwards maintained an epistolary correspondence, upon subjects relating to the institutions, languages, and literature of India. He was particulary pleased to find amongst the number, Mr. Robert Smith, the brother of his friend the Reverend Sidney Smith, who, with his lady, weregoing to Bengal. When he arrived at Madras, on the 19th of August, after a voyage of between four and five months, he was in very indifferent health. He had the good fortune to find a kind friend in Dr. James Anderson, the Physician General, who is greatly distinguished as a Naturalist. Under his hospitable roof,

Leyden stayed four weeks. The circumstances of his landing, and, the impressions he felt at the sight of so many new objects, are somewhat ludicrously described in a letter written by him a considerable while afterwards.*

His first employment after his arrival, was in the General hospital at Madras, of which he had nearly the whole charge for more than four months. His being permitted to reside there so long was considered as a favour, as it afforded him an opportunity for the study of the languages, of which he availed himself with his usual ardour and perseverance. On the 15th of January, 1808, he was promoted, by the particular recommendation of Lord William Bentinck to the office of Surgeon and Naturalist to the Commisioners, who were appointed, under the superintendance of Major Mackenzie, to survey the provinces in the Mysore, recently conquered from Tippoo Sultaun. They

* See Note [E.]

did not, however, set out on the survey till the 9th of June. Their route lay through Bangalore and Seringapatam, from whence they were to visit Soonda, near Goa, and then proceed southward, by the range of hills called Ghauts, as far as the point of the Peninsula, opposite to the island of Ceylon. While the state of his health permitted his exertions in this fatiguing service, he drew up some useful papers, which he communicated to the Government, relative to the mountainous strata, which he had an opportunity of observing, and their mineral indications—to the diseases, medicines, and remedies of the natives of Mysore, and the peculiarities of their habits and constitution, by which they might be exposed to disease—to the different crops cultivated in Mysore and their rotation—and, to the languages of Mysore, and their respective relations. It was in this service that he met with the strange adventure, of which the following account is extracted from one of his letters.

"I was one day sent to a great distance to take charge of a sick officer who had been seized by the jungle fever in the depth of one of the vast forests and wildernesses of Mysore. After travelling for two days, as fast as horse and men could carry me, I arrived about one o'clock in the morning at the bank of a large river, in the midst of a forest. The river was a flood, and roared terribly, and seemed very rapid. I sent in a palankeen-boy that could swim, and he presently got out of his depth. At a little distance stood a village within these three years notorious for being a nest of robbers. I, with great difficulty, knocked up some of the villagers, who were nearly as much afraid as Christie's Will * at the visit of a *Sirdar*. After a great deal of discussion in Canara and Hindostani, in order to induce them to shew me a ford, or make a raft to cross the water on, as no time was to be lost, three of them at last undertook to convey me over,

* See the Border Minstrelsy, vol. iii. page 112.

alone. I got into a large brass kettle, with three ears, and sat down in the bottom of it, balancing myself with great accuracy; each of the three swimmers laid hold of one of the ears, and then we swam round and round in a series of circles, till we reached the opposite bank. Had it been light I should have been quite giddy.—Now did you ever hear a more apocryphal story in your life?—and yet it is merely fact. I have only to add that after crossing the river, I found myself in a wilder jungle than ever, and was dogged by a monstrous tiger for nearly three miles."

But partly from the fatigue which he endured upon this occasion, his health became so much impaired, that about the end of November, when the surveyors were on the confines of the Wynaad and Coimbatore, it was necessary for him to leave them and repair to Seringapatam, where he remained some months suffering under a lingering fever, and liver complaint. He had before formed

a friendship with Colonel Wilks, and had been treated by him with great kindness and attention. He now met with his distinguished countryman, Sir John Malcolm, who had come from Bengal, to resume his station of Resident at the Court of Mysore. This gentleman stuck with Leyden's character and situation, and finding him to be a native of the same part of Scotland with himself, took an anxious concern in his welfare, and carried him to the house which he inhabited at Mysore, where the enjoyment of congenial society, and the kindness and cordiality with which he was entertained contributed greatly to the re-establishment of his health.

When Leyden was at Mysore, an occurrence took place which shewed that ill-health had neither subdued his spirit, nor weakened his poetical powers. His host, Sir John Malcolm, one morning before breakfast, gave him back his peom of the "Scenes of Infacy," which he had borrowed a few

days before;—on looking at the title-page, Leyden observed that Sir John had written with a pencil the stanzas which follow:—

Thy muse, O Leyden, seeks no foreign clime,
For deeds of fame, to twine her brow with bays;
But finds at home whereon to build her rhyme,
And patriot virtues sings in patriot lays.

'Tis songs like thine that lighten labour's toil,
That rouse each generous feeling of the heart,
That bind us closer to our native soil,
And make it death from those we love to part.

'Tis songs like thine that make each rugged wild,
And barren heath, to Scotia's sons more dear,
Than scenes o'er which fond nature partial smil'd,
And rob'd in verdure thro' the varied year.

'Tis songs like thine that spread the martial flame,
Mid Scotia's sons, and bid each youth aspire
To rush on death, to gain a deathless name,
And live in story like his glorious sire.

While the clear Teviot thro' fair meads shall stray,
And Esk still clearer seeks the Western main;
So long shall Border maidens sing thy lay,
And Border youths applaud the patriot strain.

Leyden read these verses once or twice over, with much apparent satisfaction, and then exclaimed, "What! attack me at my own trade; this must not be. You, gentlemen," addressing himself to two or three who were in the parlour, "may go to breakfast, but I will neither eat nor drink, until I have answered this fine compliment." He retired to his room, and in less than half an hour, returned with the following lines, addressed to Colonel Malcolm;—

Bred mid the heaths and mountain swains,
Rude nature charm'd my early view;
I sighed to leave my native plains,
And bid the haunts of youth adieu.

Soft as I trac'd each woodland green,
I sketch'd its charms with parting hand;
That memory might each fairy scene
Revive within this eastern land.

Careless of fame, nor fond of praise,
The simple strains spontaneous sprung,
For Teviot's youths I wrote the lays,
For Border-maids my songs I sung.

Enough for me if these impart
 The glow to patriot virtue dear;
The free-born soul, the fearless heart,
 The spirit of the mountaineer.

Torn from my native wilds afar,
 Enough for me if souls like thine
Unquench'd beneath the eastern star,
 Can still applaud the high design.

When he thought himself considerably better, he got permission to visit the sea-coast, and to try the effect of a voyage to facilitate his recovery. With this intention he went down to Malabar, through the mountainous districts of Coorg, Cherical, and Cotiote, in the beginning of May, 1805. The following is an extract from a letter which he wrote during this journey.

"Now that we have made our way from the confines of Mysore to the first post on the borders of Cotiote, it is time to turn back and make our acknowledgments for the very hospitable reception we experienced at Coorg, in consequence of your communications with the Raja. For my own part,

I have been quite delighted both with the country and its inhabitants. The grotesque and savage scenery, the sudden peeps of romantic ridges of mountains bursting at once on you through the bamboo bushes, the green peaks of the loftiest hills, towering above the forests on their declivities, and the narrow cultivated stripes between the ridges, all contributed strongly to recall to memory some very romantic scenes in the Scotish Highlands. At the same time, the frank, open, and bold demeanour of the natives, so different from the mean and cringing aspect of all the native Hindoos that I had hitherto set eyes on, could not fail to be beheld with great approbation by a mountaineer of my way of thinking. The first thing that the Subidar of Vira Rajendra Pettah did, to my utter astonishment, was to come up and give me such a shake by the hand, as would have done credit to a Scotsman. This was so utterly unexpected on my part, that it drove quite out of my head a

most elaborate Tamul oration, which I was in the act of addressing to him. I assure you, however, that I gave him such a tug in reply, that if he do not understand a Scotsman's language very accurately, he wont forget a Scotsman's gripe in a hurry. We stopped for one day at Vira Rajendra Pettah. I wish it had been a score, for I found I got sensibly stronger in the Coorg Mountains than ever I have been since."

When he arrived at Cananore, intending to sail from thence to Bombay, he found himself obliged to defer his voyage, as the stormy season had set in, during which, the navigation of the coast is interrupted. He continued in Malabar four months, and found much to interest and gratify his curiosity at Calicut, Paulgaut-cherry, and other places which he visited in that fine country. At Paulgaut-cherry, he was detained six weeks by a very severe attack of illness, from which, as soon as he was sufficiently recovered, he proceeded by the wild and

unfrequented route of Trichoor, the capital of the Cochin Rajah, to the city of Cochin, from whence he went to Aleppe, Quilon, Anjengo, Pada Nellum, and other places in Travancore. In all these journeys, and even when oppressed with sickness, he never for a moment lost sight of the great objects of his pursuit, but turned an attentive and searching eye to whatever was connected with literature in the towns where he stopped, and the regions through which he travelled. At Seringapatam, when confined by illness to his room, he made considerable progress in the Sanscrit language, and amused himself with translating tales from the Persic and Hindostani. Wherever he went, he visited the temples, and remarkable buildings on his route, copied and translated the ancient inscriptions, and in every place sought after materials to illustrate the history, the customs, and the religion of the natives. He particularly distinguished himself, by translating some inscriptions in an ob-

solete dialect, of the Tamul language, and, in an ancient character called the Lada Lippee, or Verraggia, which no European had ever been able to decypher, and which was hardly known even to the most learned Indians, but which he found out by comparing together several different alphabets. He also succeeded in interpreting the Tambuca Shashanas, or brazen inscriptions, belonging to the Jews of Cochin, the meaning of which was lost in remote antiquity. But his pursuits were often interrupted by renewed attacks of his disorder, which made him eager to execute his design of making a voyage. Wherefore, about the end of September, the favourable season being come, he embarked at Quilon, in a Parsee vessel, bound for Puloo Penang, and arrived at that island on the 22d of October.

When sailing near the coast of Sumatra, they were very near being taken by the French, and it was upon this occasion, that he wrote the spi-

rited Address to his Malay Kress, or Dagger, which was actually composed during the heat of the pursuit. His account of the occurrences of this voyage, in a vessel where he was the only European on board, is so amusing, and presents in so striking a light Leyden's talents for observation, and his skill in collecting curious information wherever it was to be found, that it is hoped the reader will not think the following extracts too long. They are taken from his journal, written during the voyage, and addressed to one of his friends.

"Sept. 29th.—Our vessel is termed in Arabic the Mukhlal, after some Oulia* or other, who I hope will take good care of us. The Nakhoda is a Parsee, and he has a companion, who has nearly as much authority as himself, who is an Arab. The Steersman, or Sukhanee, and the two Mu'ullims, or pilots, are Maldivians, prodigiously addicted to sorcery, and adepts completely in the Elmi Dawut.

* Mussulman Saint.

The rest of the crew, about twenty in number, are Madillas from Malabar; faith and troth, I very much question, if ever Sinbad the Sailor sailed with a more curious set. It is curious too, that the greater part of his adventures occurred in these very seas. If you recollect, he gives a particular account of King *Mehrage*, which is only the Arabic mode of pronouncing Maha Rajah, a title of the Rajah of Travancore, and indeed of every Rajah with whom I have any acquaintance."

"Sept. 30.—We are getting into a dreadfully rough sea, and as the mariners have no confidence in their own science, they have furled all the sails, and have left us pitching a perfect naked hull on the water."

"Oct. 1.—We have had a terrible night, in which it was quite impossible to rest between the roaring and hissing of the waves, and the barbarous dissonance of the Arabic hymns that have resounded all night."

"Oct. 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th.—These four days there has been a high swell of the sea, with smart gales and showers, the sea generally of a deep green or of a deep violet colour. On the morning of the fifth a ship was descried at a great distance on the lee-beam. As she neither made any efforts of consequence to come up with us, nor displayed any colours, she excited little apprehension till the close of evening, when having gained the weather-beam, she made a sudden dart at us, like a leopard at a fawn, and was nearly up with us before we perceived her. Then followed a scene which it is impossible to describe, and which demonstrated our shipmates to be even greater cowards than fools. Every body crowded instantly on the poop, where they attended to nothing but the motions of one of the Maldivains, who commenced his operations with great energy. Having written a number of charms, he threw them into the sea, leisurely chanting an Arabic prayer

with a loud voice all the time. As the charms fell into the sea the people persuaded themselves that the sea roughened, and the waves rose; and their idea of their efficacy was still more confirmed by the ship in pursuit, which had now approached within hail, happening at this very time to lose her wind, and drop astern. At the sight of this the Maldivian began to sing out more zealously than ever. and presently fell into a state approaching convulsion, during which he was held by the rest of the crew, and prevented from falling into the sea; all which time he continued in a most ecstatic manner to howl forth Arabic prayers to God, the Prophet Ali, and the Imams, but especially Ruffia, one of the fourteen Khanwadehs, the prayers and invocations of all whose disciples are performed with loud noise and bodily contorsions. It seems there are four super-eminent Pirs, and fourteen Khanwadehs. These four Pirs are as it were the founders of sects, which

have the following names from their founders: 1. Kadiriah, who are silent in religious acts. 2. Chishtiah. 3. Serwirdiah. 4. Tabkattiah, or Muddariah. The sect of Ruffiä is a division of the last order. I thought for some time every body had been going stark staring mad, but after a little the Maldivian became a little more calm, continuing, however, to exclaim with all his might, "bom! bom!" which I understood to be his pronunciation of the Tamul pochom, "let us go on;" on which, I believe every rag of sail in the vessel was hoisted in defiance of the weakness of our masts. As we did not seem, however, likely to get rid of our companion so easily, who still seemed intent on coming up with us, I secured the English pass and bill of lading, and directed the supercargo, that if it was a Frenchman, and came aboard of us, to present only his Guzeratty papers, which they were not likely to understand. Thinking it also probable, that if we were captured, as our snow is only of 80 tons

burden, that they would not throw more than ten or twelve men aboard of us, to conduct us to the Isle of France, I proposed concealing myself with five men among the bales of cloth, till it should be night, when the Frenchmen being necessarily divided into two watches, might be easily overpowered. This was agreed to, but we found there was a woeful deficiency of arms, as besides my pistols and dagger, we could only muster a single talwar, and a couple of kreesses in the whole ship. A like difficulty occurred in selecting the persons to make the attempt. I could depend upon my Persian and Arab servants, and at last pitched on two Malabars and one Maldivian. So having made the best arrangements we could, I retired to rest and to wait the event in darkness, having hoisted our deadlights. After forming this daring resolution, our shipmates held a council of war on the poop, and continued with tolerable courage to debate over the subject in every point of view till

day-break, when unfortunately de-scrying the masts of a vessel on our weather beam, which was immediately supposed to be our old friend, the sentiments of every person underwent a most unfortunate alteration, and the Nakhoda, and the Soucan, as well as the Supercargo, informed me that they would not tell a lie for the whole world, even to save their lives; and in short, that they would neither be *airt nor pairt* in the business. I, who had all this time been addressing my dagger with great fervour, when I heard this paltry resolution, was strongly tempted to have buried it in the hearts of the cowardly wretches; but as it could serve no purpose, I contented myself with desiring the Nakhoda at least to hoist his Arab flag; but even this could not be accomplished, for after some time they asserted roundly that they had no other flag but one inscribed with some sentences of the Koran, for raising the wind. This I fancy is a downright lie, but there is no remedy.

Fortunately the sea ran very high, and we escaped more through the kindness of Providence than our own deserts.

"Oct. 8th, 9th.—These two last days we had an uncommon high sea, with violent rain and squalls, the sea dashing over us, and into the cabin, where I have been completely wet and drenched. The Maldivians furled the sails and let us drive before the tempest, while they invoked with dreadful yells of the whole crew, sometimes the merciful God, and sometimes the two kings of the sea, and of the desart forest Melech bar ò bahher, who I find are brothers. as in the northern mythology. Their proper names, however, are Khajeh Kheider and Mihter Elias, (according to others the same person,) the first of whom is the Melech Bar, or Erl King, who presides over lonely forests and desarts! the second is properly the King of the Sea, or Melech-i-bahher. They were, at least, as fervent in their devotions, as ever were Catholic mariners

to the Virgin Mother, the Star of the Sea, as she is poetically denominated. The crew, however, were soon obliged to leave the devotional part of the business to the steersman, and apply themselves actively to the pump, as it was found we were making an alarming quantity of water. The rain continued without intermission, and as the whole crew seemed nearly exhausted with cold and fatigue, I proposed recruiting them with a glass of gin. This was agreed to, but happening unluckily in giving directions to my servant, to mention the word *sherab*, they assured me unanimously they would drink no sherab. After a vivid debate on the subject, we at last hit on a proper medium, and it was resolved, that though it would be a very bad action to drink it as sherab or wine, yet there would be no harm in the world in drinking it as *duwa*, medicine: one of the sages observing, with a look of the most profound wisdom, that we must sometimes drink even poison as medicine.

"Oct. 10.—Immediately after daybreak this day, we descried land, which I imagine to be the coast of Sumatra, east of Achin.

"Oct. 11th. The evening is most divinely beautiful, and here are we sticking on a smooth glassy sea "as idle as a painted ship, upon a painted ocean." The western sky presents a freckled net-work of brilliant, golden yellow, gradually changing into a bright rose colour, which softens as the evening descends. The sea gently heaving without a ripple on its surface, towards the east displays a clear violet and broken claret-colour, while toward the west it gently fluctuates in fleeting shades from the hue of molten gold, to that of burnished copper, from a clear whitish yellow, to a deep brazen red. These shades continue flickering along the surface, for a considerable time after the sun has descended, when all at once the surface of the ocean assumes the hue of clear green liquid glass.

"Oct. 16th. Achin Hill presents a scene of enchantment, flooded with softened crimson, by the rays of the setting sun.—The Maldivian informs me, that we have now no danger to fear, if we steer clear of Tavai, the mountain of loadstone, which he affirms, is at a vast distance in the direction of Mergui. This mountain of loadstone is the same I fancy which figures in the Arabian Nights, in the tale of the third calendar, and which was wont to attract all the iron out of the vessels of Prince Ajeeb. It is certain that this fable was also known to the Greeks, for Palladius alludes to it, and places it among the Maniolæ islands. He adds, that on account of its attractive power, the mariners who navigated these seas, used no iron in the structure of their vessels, but sewed the planks together. Hence it would also appear that the Greeks were acquainted with the mode of sewing the planks of small vessels together with coir,* a practice particularly used among the

Maldives and Laccadines, though the Masoula boats on the coast are of the same construction. *Masoula* is the Mahratta term for fish.

"Oct. 19th. This cursed ship is now become completely detestable. The tainted odour of spoiled rice, and rotten salt-fish, spoiled by the salt-water which washes over us from day to day, has quite filled the cabin; and legions of small scorpions begin to make their appearance amid the myriads of cock-roaches and ants, by which we are constantly infested. The ship smells all over like an open sepulchre, and the water is putrid and nauseous.

"Last night there has been a good deal of rain with very vivid flashes of lightning. It is very singular that the Persians and Indians firmly believe that the matter of lightning, or that substance which forms the thunder-bolt, is a species of iron. When this substance is mixed in a very small proportion with steel for the formation of scimitars and other weapons,

it is supposed to give them a temper and edge which nothing can resist. This lightning metal accordingly bears a very high price, and is said to be chiefly procured from a certain mountain in Irak. I have not been able to procure an accurate account of the manner in which it is obtained, but the natives are said to form holes in the mountain, which they fill with moist cow dung, a species of rice, and a third substance, the name of which I have not heard, and when the thunder-bolt falls, a small quantity of the metal is found in these pits.

"Persians, Indians, and Arabs are all believers in the hydrographic doctrine of the seven seas. The Deria Sabz, or green sea, is placed in Muggneb, and in this they assert that it is impossible to sail for the sea-weeds. In this sea they assert that a species of Nilofer or water-lily is produced, the calyx of which is of great size, and contains the perfect form of a beautiful young child, affixed to the lotus by the navel, which dies as soon

as it is separated from it. This child they term *Biché ab*, the child of the water."

Notwithstanding the untoward circumstances of this voyage, it does not appear that Leyden felt any bad effects from it. It was not long before he found his health considerably improved by the delightful climate of Puloo Penang. He remained there several months. happy in the enjoyment of agreeable society, and in that increase of intellectual energy which the sight of new and interesting objects seldom fails to produce. The peculiarities of the Malay race drew his eager attention, and in order to extend his knowledge of their language, manners and religion, he visited various places upon the neighbouring coasts. The information thus collected, he afterwards gave to the public in a "Dissertation on the Languages and Literature of the Indo-Chinese Nations." It was printed in the tenth volume of the Asiatic Researches. This work, considering the short time

he had been in India when he wrote it, is a wonderful monument of his genius and industry. It contains an investigation of the origin and descent of the various tribes that people the Malayan Peninsula and Islands, by comparing together, and tracing the affinity of their languages and customs with each other, and with those of the nations more to the westward.

In the beginning of 1806, he left Puloo Penang, with renovated health, but not without regret at parting with the friends whose kindness has greatly contributed to render his stay there delightful. Among these were Mr. Dundas, the Governor of the Island, and Mr. Raffles, who was afterwards Governor of Java.

Before his departure, Leyden addressed to Mrs. Raffles, under the name of Olivia, his beautiful verses "The Dirge of the departed Year:" which were printed in the newspape of the island.

He now proceeded to Bengal, in the Portuguese vessel Santo Antonio.

In the Journal which he wrote during this voyage, he says,—"I have now been able to reconnoitre our crew, among which I do not find that there is a single European; the master and officers being Macao-Portuguese, as well as many of the sailors, who have, during their whole lives. traded among these Eastern islands. They pass their time a little more merrily than we do, and seem to enjoy themselves vastly with their pork, their rice, curry, and greasy messes. In their eating, they differ little from the nations of India, except that they are more greasy in every thing, and as fond of pork as the Chinese themselves. Their cookery is a little too partial to cockroaches and insects, which do not sit well on an English stomach. By their account of the Portuguese settlement of Macao, there seems to be little else to live upon but pork in some shape or other. The settlement they allege, contains about 6000 men, and 12,000 women. Many of the Portuguese breed from place, have the oblique

swinish eye of the Chinese, which would seem to indicate a mixture of Chinese blood. They proceed regularly to their *Ave Marias* at six o'clock, and at eight, all that have any taste for music assemble in the kuddeh,* with the captain and officers at their head, where they chaunt Portuguese and Malaya verses, intermixed with a good deal of horse-play, and the recitation of awkward phrases in a circle, when the person that misses his nay-word, is condemned to lead the next song. It would certainly be altogether impossible for an Englishman, except of the very lowest order, to find any amusement in this diversion; in consequence of which I suspect he would by no means be so happy as a Portuguese. I also imagine, it would be extremely difficult to find an English ship in which less quarrelling and angry words occur either among the officers or seamen."

On the eighth of February, 1806, after a voyage of three weeks, he ar-

* Cabin.

rived at Calcutta, where he continued more than a year before he obtained any particular appointment, the infirm state of his health still not permitting him to return to his fatiguing employment in the Madras presidency. About the beginning of 1807, he presented to the Government at Calcutta, a memoir of nearly two hundred pages, on the Indo-Persian, Indo-Chinese, and Dekkani languages. This was submitted to the College Council, who returned it to the Secretary of Government, with a very high eulogium, and with their unanimous recommendation that Leyden should instantly be placed on the establishment of the College, with a proper salary, and in the order of succession for the first vacant professorship. Not long afterwards, his merits were recognised, by his election to the Professorship of the Hindostani language, in the College, and his admission into the Asiatic Society. He soon afterwards gave up the Professorship, for the office of Judge of the twenty-four Pargunnahs of Calcut-

ta, to which he was appointed by Lord Minto, the Governor-General, who honoured him with his friendship and patronage. The situation is an arduous and fatiguing one, uniting the functions of a soldier and a magistrate. It was his duty to head the troops employed to rid Bengal of the numerous bands of freebooters with which it was then infested. In this employment, apparently so foreign to his habits and pursuits, he acquitted himself on various occasions with great credit to himself, and benefit to the public. Upon one occasion, when he returned from a successful expedition into the province of Nuddiya, he publicly received the thanks of Lord Minto and the Government.

In January, 1809, when he had held this situation two years, he relinquished it, and was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, in the city of Calcutta. To hold this office, it was requisite that he should be able to speak several of the Eastern languages; its duties

were fatiguing, and kept him busily employed during three days in the week. But he was now in good health, and he devoted every interval of business to the laborious study of the languages and literature of the East.

It is not intended here to give a minute account of the progress of Leyden in his Oriental studies. He had, from the day of his arrival in India, made, to use one of his own terms, " a grasp" at all the principal languages of that vast continent, and as his passion for display (the marked defect of his character) led him to intrude his knowledge, even when in a crude state, upon every class of society with which he mixed, he was naturally enough judged by many, who measured him by an ordinary standard, to be more superficial than profound. But though his pretensions often outran his acquirements, the result of his earliest efforts shewed that the latter were surprising; and the justice of that regard and friendship with which his character had inspired some of

those most competent to decide upon his merit, in the part of India that he first visited, was confirmed on his arrival at Calcutta, by the opinion of the most distinguished persons of that capital, who, struck with admiration of his talents, extended to him every aid and encouragement that could stimulate him to an ardent perseverance in the path of literary eminence. Leyden was naturally pleased with that distinction which the notice and regard of such men conveyed, and he frequently boasted of it to his friends; above all, he felt a just pride in having attained the friendship and approbation of Mr. Henry Colebrooke, then President of the Asiatic Society, a gentleman who may be truly termed the most mature of all Oriental scholars. Sir John Malcolm, who appears to have been one of his earliest and best friends in India, has well described, in a letter * written after Leyden's death, the character of the studies which he at this period pur-

* See Note [F.]

sued: " It will remain with those " who are better qualified than I am," (Sir John observes,) " to do justice to " the memory of Dr. Leyden. I only " know that he rose, by the power of " native genius, from the humblest ori- " gin to a very distinguished rank in " the literary world. His studies " included almost every branch of hu- " man science, and he was alike " ardent in the pursuit of all. The " greatest power of his mind was, per- " haps, shewn in his acquisition of " modern and ancient languages. He " exhibited an unexampled facility, " not merely in acquiring them, but " in tracing their affinity and connec- " tion with each other; and from that " talent, combined with his taste and " general knowledge, we had a right " to expect, from what he did in a " very few years, that he would, if " he had lived, have thrown the great- " est light upon the more abstruse " parts of the history of the East. In " this curious, but intricate and rugg- " ed path, we cannot hope to see his " equal."

The works which Dr. Leyden had finished before his death, and to which Sir John Malcolm alludes, were chiefly translations from the Persian, Arabic, and Sanscrit. There are also among his MSS. many valuable philological tracts, and several grammars completed; particularly one of the Malay language, and of the Pracrit. To the latter task he had been prompted by his friend Mr. Henry Colebrooke, who has since expressed his satisfaction with Leyden's execution of this arduous and useful labour.

The mode of Leyden's studies was as singular as his indefatigable application. Both are described in a very characteristical manner by Sir John Malcolm, in the same letter that has been before quoted: "It is not easy," (he observes,) "to convey an idea of "the method which Dr. Leyden used "in his studies, or to describe the un- "conquerable ardour with which "these were pursued. During his ear- "ly residence in India I had a parti- "cular opportunity of observing both.

"When he read a lesson in Persian,
"a person near him, whom he had
"taught, wrote down each word on
"a long slip of paper, which was af-
"terwards divided into as many
"pieces as there were words, and
"pasted in alphabetical order, under
"different heads of verbs, nouns, &c.
"into a plank book, that formed a
"vocabulary of each day's lesson.
"All this he had in a few hours in-
"structed a very ignorant native to
"do; and this man he used, in his
"broad accent, to call 'one of his
"Mechanical Aids.' He was so ill
"at Mysore, soon after his arrival
"from England, that Mr. Anderson,
"the surgeon who attended him, de-
"spaired of his life; but though all
"his friends endeavoured at this pe-
"riod to prevail upon him to relax in
"his application to study, it was in
"vain. He used, when unable to sit
"upright, to prop himself up with
"pillows, and continue his transla-
"tions. One day that I was sitting
"by his bed-side the surgeon came

"in; 'I am glad you are here,' said
"Mr. Anderson, addressing himself
"to me, 'you will be able to per-
"suade Leyden to attend to my ad-
"vice. I have told him before, and
"I now repeat, that he will die if he
"does not leave off his studies, and
"remain quiet.' 'Very well, Doc-
"tor,' exclaimed Leyden, 'you have
"done your duty, but you must now
"hear me; *I cannot be idle*; and
"whether I die or live, the wheel
"must go round to the last:' and he
"actually continued under the de-
"pression of a fever and a liver
"complaint, to study more than ten
"hours each day."

Leyden's attainments will excite greater admiration, and his merit will be more fully understood, if the difficulties with which he had to struggle, independent of the wretched state of his health, be taken into consideration. Some of these are stated by himself, in a letter written after he had been somewhat more than a year in India, to one of his

friends, who was engaged in the same pursuits with himself. "We are "here," says he, "in the peninsula "exactly in the situation of the re-"vivers of literature in Europe, and "likewise exposed to the same diffi-"culties in respect of the incorrect-"ness of MSS. the inaccuracy of "teachers, and the obstacles that "must be encountered in procuring "either. It would be amusing to re-"count the tricks, and unfair prac-"tices that have been attempted to be "played off on me. I have had a "Bramin engaged to teach me San-"scrit, who scarcely knew a syllable "of the language. I have had ano-"ther attempt to palm Hindostani on "me for Mahratta. I have had a "Bramin likewise attempt to impose "a few Slogas, which are in the "mouths of every one, on me, for the "translation of an ancient inscription "in the ancient Canara character. "Indeed the moral character of the "Hindus—'the blameless, mild, pa-"tient, innocent children of nature,'

"as they are ridiculously termed by "gossiping ignoramusses, who never "set eyes on them—is as utterly "worthless and devoid of probity, as "their religion is wicked, shameless, "impudent, and obscene. Do you "recollect the savage picture of "Leontius Pilatus, Boccacio's pre- "ceptor in Greek?—It corresponds "wonderfully with that of my first "Sanscrit teacher, whose conduct to "me was so execrable, that I was "obliged to dismiss him with dis- "grace. I shall, most probably, ne- "ver be able to attain either the "harmony of Petrarch's numbers, or "the suavity and grace of Boccacio's "prose; but I shall certainly con- "quer Sanscrit, though they failed "in attaining the Grecian language. "The prejudices of the Bramins have, "however, relaxed very little in our "presidency, and excepting Mr. "Ellis, there is scarce a person that "has been able to break ground "in this field of literature. Major "Wilks, acting Resident at Mysore,

"informed me, that some years ago; "incited by the example of Wilkins "and Sir William Jones, he attempt- "ed to study Sanscrit at Madras; "and exerted a great deal of influ- "ence very unsuccessfully. The Du- "bashes, then all-powerful at Madras, "threatened loss of cast and absolute "destruction to any Bramin who "should dare to unveil the mysteries "of their sacred language to a *Pariar* "*Frengi*. This reproach of *Pariar* "is what we have tamely and strange- "ly submitted to for a long time, "when we might with equal facility "have assumed the respectable cha- "racter of *Chatriya*, or *Rajaputra*. "In all my conversations with the "Bramins, I boldy claim to be re- "garded as the immediate descend- "ant of the chief Brahmadica "Swayumbhuva, under the character "and name of *Adima*, and from his "wife *Iva*, subject to a particular "*Veda*, more ancient than their own, "which was issued before Vyasa "was born, and assert that conse-

"quently they cannot expect me to "be subject to *their laws*, which were "of later promulgation than my "own."

But it is time to resume the narrative. Towards the end of the year 1810, Leyden resigned his appointment of Commissioner of Requests, and was preferred, by Lord Minto, to the situation of Assay Master at the Calcutta mint. He now enjoyed a very considerable salary, and had very easy duties to perform. "I have laid aside," says he, in a letter to his father, informing him of this appointment, "the scales of justice for those "of mammon; and instead of trying "men and their causes, I have only "to try the baser, but much less re-"fractory, metals of gold and silver." To comfort his parents, who were ever anxious for his safety, he spoke, in this letter, of his anticipated return to Britain, and told them that he expected to have no more changes during his stay in India.

The fatal event which was approaching, was a sad reverse to these fond anticipations. He was never again to behold those parents whom he so much loved and revered; nor those scenes of his youth, of which he had sung so sweetly. His services were required in the expedition against Java; and he went with Lord Minto to assist in settling the country when conquered. He sailed from Calcutta on the 9th of March, 1811, and arrived at Madras, where the army was collected, after a tedious voyage of thirty days. During this voyage he gave a striking proof of that rash intrepidity which formed always a conspicuous feature in his character. Two of his fellow passengers, with whom he was upon terms of intimacy, offered to bet with him sixty gold mohurs, that he durst not climb up to the top-gallant-royal of the vessel; a plan having been privately formed to have him bound there, until he should purchase his release by paying a fine. Leyden, whose courage

was equalled by an unfortunate passion for displaying it, which sometimes made him appear to disadvantage, accepted the wager, and fearlessly mounted to the top; when, perceiving the intended sequel of this insidious joke, he made a desperate, but successful effort to frustrate it. He hastily grasped a coir rope, with the assistance of which he threw himself down, though, as it sild through his hands, it cut them most severely. It must be added, that though he had thus more than won the wager, he refused to take the money, but having received a written order for the sum, immediately destroyed it. Such were the virtuous and strictly honourable principles in which he had been brought up, that he looked upon it as in some degree disgraceful to gain money by wagers, or other species of gaming, or in any way in which it could not be regarded as an equivalent for the performance of useful services.

After remaining fifteen days at Madras, he proceeded on his voyage,

with that part of the expedition to which he was attached. They touched at Penang, Malacca, and other places on their route, where he found laborious employment in translating the letters which had arrived from the Rajahs of different nations, in the neighbourhood, and in dictating proclamations to send forward in the Malay, Javanese, Bugis, and Bali languages. At Malacca, where they were detained some time, his active curiosity led him to make an excursion, which took up six days, inio the interior of the Peninsula, in which he passed the boundary of the Malacca territory, and went into that of Johore.

On the fourth of August the British troops landed in Java, at a village, six miles east from Batavia; and three days afterwards they entered that celebrated city, without meeting with any resistance. Jansens, the governor, had withdrawn his forces, and retired to a strong position at fort Cornelis, about five miles up the country, whither they were soon fol-

lowed and routed, after a hard fought battle, by the victorious invaders.

In the meantime Leyden, with his usual eagerness, employed every moment of leisure in researches into the literature of the conquered city. Amongst other objects calculated to excite and to gratify his favourite passion, was a library, said to contain a valuable collection of Oriental MSS. Going out one day with the intention of exploring it, he accidentally went into a large low room in one of the public buildings, which had been the depository of effects belonging to the Dutch government, and was also said to contain some Javanese curiosities. With fatal inadvertence he entered it, without using the precaution of having it aired, although it had been shut up for some time, and the confined air was strongly impregnated with the poisonous quality which has made Batavia the grave of so many Europeans. Upon leaving this place he was suddenly affected with shivering and sickness,

the first symptoms of a mortal fever, which he himself attributed to the pestilential air he had been inhaling. He died on the 28th of August, after three days illness, in the thirty-sixth year of his age. His sorrowing friends, Lord Minto, and Mr. Raffles, saw the last sad offices done to his mortal remains.

Thus Leyden closed his "bright and brief career," when his hopes were highest, and his fortune seemed most auspicious; when he was advancing rapidly to that fame and distinction, of which he was nobly ambitious, and when his merits had become sufficiently known to cause him to be deeply and universally regretted.

Having now traced the principal events of his life, it may not be improper to collect together some of the most striking traits of his person and character.—In his stature, Leyden was of the middle size, well proportioned, and of a slender rather than robust form. He had a clear com-

plexion, brown hair, and dark eyes, full of animation and intelligence. His looks and gestures were quick, and expressive of habitual cheerfulness and activity. He possessed considerable muscular power, and athletic skill, and was fond of displaying his prowess in feats of strength and agility, for which he had been famous in his early years, among the rustic youth of the vicinity.

He was distinguished for the manly simplicity and independence of his character. He could suppress, but knew not the art of disguising his emotions. His foibles or defects seemed to have a distant resemblance of the same good qualities ill-regulated, and carried to an unreasonable excess. Perfectly conscious of retaining the essence of politeness, he sometimes wantonly neglected the ceremonial.* In his judgment of men, and his value for their society and acquaintance, he was guided solely by his opinion of their moral and intellectual worth;

* See Note [G.]

and never paid any regard to claims founded merely upon the adventitious circumstances of rank and fortune; but rather strenuously opposed them whenever he imagined they were obtrusively brought forward. His stubbornness in points like this did not fail to create prejudices against him, and to cause him to be misrepresented as vain and presumptuous. But those who knew him best, who saw him in the daily intercourse of life, and amongst his friends and relations, loved him for qualities the very reverse of these. His general deportment was truly amiable and unassuming. He was a cheerful and good-humoured companion, and an affectionate and steady friend, deeply sensible of kindness, and ever ready to oblige. His gratitude to his generous patron Lord Minto was warm and zealous, and is often strongly expressed in his private letters. We have the testimony of that nobleman to the disinterestedness of his character. In a speech delivered at a visi-

tation of the College of Fort William, soon after his return from the conquest of Java, speaking of Dr. Leyden, his Lordship says, " No man, whatever " his condition might be, ever possess- " ed a mind so entirely exempt from " every sordid passion, so negligent " of fortune, and all its groyelling pur- " suits—in a word, so entirely disin- " terested—nor ever owned a spirit " more firmly and nobly independent. " I speak of these things with some " knowledge, and wish to record a " competent testimony to the fact, " that within my experience, Dr. Ley- " den never, in any instance, solicited " an object of personal interest, nor, " as I believe, ever interrupted his " higher pursuits, to waste a moment's " thought on these minor cares. " Whatever trust or advancement may " at some periods have improved his " personal situation, have been, with- " out exception, tendered, and in a " manner thrust upon his acceptance, " unsolicited, uncontemplated, and " unexpected. To this exemption

"from cupidity, was allied every ge-
"nerous virtue worthy of those smiles
"of fortune, which he disdained to
"court; and, amongst many estima-
"ble features of his character, an ar-
"dent love of justice, and a vehement
"abhorrence of oppression, were not
"less prominent than the other high
"qualities I have already described."

To this eulogy of the virtue and honour of his character by Lord Minto, it must be added, that Leyden was sincerely attached to that pure religion, which he was early taught to reverence, and the principles and evidences of which had been for so long a period his chief objects of study. His conduct testified the sincerity of his belief; for, he uniformly abstained from every kind of vicious indulgence. But, in no point of view was he more estimable, than in his deep-felt gratitude to his parents, in the constant reverence and affection with which he treated them, and in the care he took to increase their comforts as soon as fortune had put it in

his power. They have survived the overwhelming affliction of his death, and still live to cherish, with pious sorrow, the recollection of his endearing virtues. He will be long remembered, with tender regret, by all who knew and can appreciate the genuine worth of his character, his dauntless integrity, his extraordinary talents, his public usefulness, the zeal and constancy of his friendship, and the gentleness of his heart.

The observations which his own knowledge has led the writer of this memoir to make upon the character of Leyden, are fully supported by the impression which he made on that society in which he passed the latter years of his life. To this fact additional testimony is derived from the following genuine and faithful picture which his friend, Sir John Malcolm has drawn of his qualities, disposition, and manners. "Dr. Leyden," (this gentleman observes, in the letter before quoted,) "had from his earliest "years cultivated the muses, with a

"success which will make many re-
"gret that Poetry did not occupy a
"larger portion of his time. The first
"of his essays, which appeared in a
"separate form, was 'The Scenes of
"Infancy,' a descriptive Poem, in
"which he sung in no unpleasing
"strains, the charms of his native
"mountains and streams in Teviot-
"dale. He contributed several small
"pieces to that collection of Poems,
"called the 'Minstrelsy of the Scot-
"tish Border,' which he published
"with his celebrated friend, Walter
"Scott. Among these the 'Mermaid,'
"is certainly the most beautiful. In
"it he has shewn all the creative fan-
"cy of a real genius. His 'Ode on
"the Death of Nelson,' is undoubted-
"ly the best of those poetical effusions
"that he has published since he came
"to India. The following apostrophe,
"to the blood of that hero, has a sub-
"limity of thought, and happiness of
"expression, which never could have
"been attained but by a true poet;

"Blood of the brave! thou art not lost
Amidst the waste of waters blue;
The tide that rolls to Albion's coast
Shall proudly boast its sanguine hue;
And thou shalt be the vernal dew
To foster valour's darling seed;
The generous plant shall still its stock renew,
And hosts of heroes rise when one shall bleed."

"It is pleasing to find him, on whom "nature has bestowed eminent genius, "possessed of those more essential "and intrinsic qualities which give "the truest excellence to the human "character. The manners of Dr. "Leyden were uncourtly, more per-"haps from his detestation of the "vices too generally attendant on re-"finement, and a wish (indulged to "excess from his youth) to keep at a "marked distance from them, than "from any ignorance of the rules of "good breeding. He was fond of "talking; his voice was loud, and "had little or no modulation; and he "spoke in the provincial dialect of "his native country. It cannot be "surprising therefore that even his "information and knowledge, when

"so conveyed, should be felt by a
"number of his hearers as unpleasant,
"if not oppressive. But with all
"these disadvantages (and they were
"great) the admiration and esteem in
"which he was always held by those
"who could appreciate his qualities,
"became general wherever he was
"long known; they even who could
"not understand the value of his know-
"ledge loved his virtues. Though
"he was distinguished by his love
"of liberty, and almost haughty
"independence, his ardent feelings,
"and proud genius, never led him
"into any licentious or extravagant
"speculation on political subjects.
"He never solicited favour, but he
"was raised by the liberal discern-
"ment of his noble friend and patron,
"Lord Minto, to situations that af-
"forded him an opportunity of shew-
"ing that he was scrupulous and as
"inflexibly virtuous in the discharge
"of his public duties, as he was at-
"tentive in private life to the duties
"of morality and religion.

"The temper of Dr. Leyden was
" mild and generous, and he could
" bear, with perfect good humour,
" raillery on his foibles. When he
" arrived at Calcutta, in 1805, I
" was most solicitous regarding his
" reception in the society of the Indian
" capital. 'I entreat you my dear
" friend,' (I said to him the day he
" landed,) 'to be careful of the im-
" pression you make on your entering
" this community; for God's sake
" learn a little English, and be silent
" upon literary subjects expect among
" literary men.' 'Learn English!'
" he exclaimed, 'no, never; it was
" trying to learn that language that
" spoilt my Scotch, and as to being
" silent, I will promise to hold my
" tongue, if you will make fools hold
" theirs.'

" His memory was most tenacious,
" and he sometimes loaded it with
" lumber. When he was at Mysore,
" an argument occurred upon a point
" of English history; it was agreed
" to refer it to Leyden, and to the

"astonishment of all parties, he re-
"peated verbatim, the whole of an
"act of parliament in the reign of
"James the First, relative to Ireland,
"which decided the point in dis-
"pute.—On being asked how he came
"to charge his memory with such
"extraordinary matter, he said that
"several years before, when he was
"writing on the changes which had
"taken place in the English language,
"this act was one of the documents
"to which he had referred as a spe-
"cimen of the style of that age, and
"that he had retained every word in
"his memory.

"His love of the place of his nati-
"vity, was a passion in which he had
"always pride, and which in India he
"cherished with the fondest enthu-
"siasm. I once went to see him when
"he was very ill, and had been confin-
"ed to his bed for many days; there
"were several gentlemen in the room;
"he enquired if I had any news; I
"told him I had a letter from Esk-
"dale; 'and what are they about in

" the borders?' he asked. A curious
" circumstance, I replied, is stated in
" my letter; and I read him a passage
" which described the conduct of our
" volunteers on a fire being kindled
" by mistake at one of the beacons.
" This letter mentioned, that the mo-
" ment the blaze, which was the sig-
" nal of invasion, was seen, the
" mountaineers hastened to their ren-
" dezvous, and those of Liddisdale
" swam the Liddal river to reach it.—
" They were assembled (though seve-
" ral of their houses were at the dis-
" tance of six or seven miles) in two
" hours, and at break of day marched
" into the town of Hawick (a distance
" of twenty miles from the place of
" assembly) to the border tune of
" '*Wha dar meddle wi' me.*' Leyden's
" countenance became animated as I
" proceeded with this detail, and at
" its close he sprung from his sick-
" bed, and with strange melody, and
" still stranger gesticulations, sung
" aloud, '*wha dar meddle wi' me, wha*
" *dar meddle wi' me.*' Several of those

" who witnessed this scene, looked at
" him as one that was raving in the
" delirium of a fever.

" These anecdotes," (Sir John Malcolm concludes) " will display more " fully than any description I can " give, the lesser shades of the cha" racter of this extraordinary man. " An external manner, certainly not " agreeable, and a disposition to ego" tism, were his only defects. How " trivial do these appear, at a moment " when we are lamenting the loss of " such a rare combination of virtues, " learning, and genius, as were con" centrated in the late Dr. Leyden!"

Though the habits of Leyden were very frugal, he had no value for money, but as it enabled him to be kind and generous to his parents and family, or to indulge his passion for knowledge. The consequence was, that almost all he acquired, was either applied to the relief of his relations, or spent upon instructors, or the purchase of Oriental manuscripts, of which he left a large collection, that was di-

rected by his will to be sold, and the produce to be given to his parents, to whom, and to his brothers and sister, he left the little property, of which he died possessed.

The writer cannot here resist his desire to relate an anecdote of Leyden's father, who, though in a humble walk of life, is ennobled by the possession of an intelligent mind, and has all that just pride which characterizes the industrious and virtuous class of Scottish peasantry, to which he belongs. Two years ago, when Sir John Malcolm visited the seat of Lord Minto, in Roxburghshire, he requested that John Leyden who was employed in the vicinity, might be sent for. as he wished to speak with him. He came after the labour of the day was finished, and though his feelings were much agitated, he appeared rejoiced to see one, who he knew had cherished so sincere a regard for his son. In the course of the conversation which took place on this occasion, Sir J. Malcolm, after mentioning his regret

at the unavoidable delays which had occurred in realizing the little property that had been left, said he was authorized by Mr. Heber (to whom all Leyden's English manuscripts had been bequeathed), to say, that such as were likely to produce a profit should be published as soon as possible, for the benefit of the family. "Sir," said the old man with animation, and with tears in his eyes, "God blessed me with a son, who, had he been spared, would have been an honour to his country!—as it is, I beg of Mr. Heber, in any publication he may intend, to think more of his memory than my wants. The money you speak of, would be a great comfort to me in my old age, but thanks to the Almighty, I have good health, and can still earn my livelihood: and I pray therefore of you and Mr. Heber to publish nothing that is not for my son's good fame."

'This natural and elevated sentiment speaks volumes on the benefits which have resulted, and must continue to

result, from the general diffusion of education. Had the father of Leyden been uninstructed, it is impossible, in the different spheres into which fortune cast them, that the ties of mutual regard, of parental pride, and of filial love, could have been so supported. Ignorance might have admired and wondered, but it could neither have appreciated nor delighted in those talents which were every moment carrying the object of its regard to a greater distance; and knowledge could hardly have been restrained by the impulses of natural affection, or the consciousness of duty, from an occasional feeling of shame at a low and vulgar connection. But it is not alone the ties of kindred that are fostered and preserved by this approximation to equality of mind in those who are placed in the most opposite conditions of life. The history of every nation proves that those societies which are most ignorant, are most pregnant with all the elements of dissention and mischief. This fact is indeed at

length universally admitted, and in our own happy country knowledge is now boldly imparted to all ranks; for it has been discovered, that though it may cause the lowest to aspire, it moderates his ambition to proper objects, and prevents his being made the dupe of the designing. Thus, its general effect is to render him whom it reaches, the friend of order, and to soften, if it connot disarm, those angry passions that are kindled by the inequalities of human life. The reason is plain,—the distance between man and man is lessened; the lowest see that superior knowledge, a quality of which they have sufficient to appreciate its value, is the usual concomitant of superior station, and are therefore content in their sphere. The highest feel compelled to grant to the intelligence of their inferiors, that respect which they might be disposed to refuse to their condition; and these reciprocal sentiments, by establishing mutual regard, strengthen all those ties by

which rational beings are best united under a rational government.

NOTES.

NOTE [A.] PAGE ii.

It is remarkable, that though a man of uncommon intelligence, and possessing great knowledge and skill in every branch of rural economy, he never could be prevailed upon to undertake the charge of a farm on his own account. In this he acted from a firm and uniform persuasion that the trouble and anxiety frequently attendant upon the pursuit of gain, are very poorly compensated by the comforts it brings.

NOTE [B.] PAGE vii.

His feelings on this occasion, when he found himself alone on the road, are alluded to in his Address to his Shadow, at the beginning of the fourth part of the Scenes of Infancy,

"But when I left my father's old abode
"And thou the sole companion of my road,
&c."

Note [C.] Page xx.

In the following extract of a letter to Dr. Robert Anderson. "Our indefatigable and invaluable friend, than whose a more ardent spirit never comprehended whatever is vast, nor surmounted whatever is difficult in literary pursuit, has prematurely closed his brilliant day, and is gone. When recently engaged in researches into the several affinities of certain languages in which he was exteremely conversant, I felt an anticipation of pleasure from the thought that my enquiries would in due time come under his eye, and undergo the friendly correction of his learned judgment. Alas! this expectation was utterly vain, for the possibility of its being accomplished was already past."

Note [D.] Page xxxiv.

"We landed after passing through a very rough and dangerous surf, and being compeletely wetted by the spray,

and were received on the beach by a number of the natives, who wanted to carry us from the boat on their naked, greasy shoulders, shining with cocoa oil. I leapt on shore with a loud huzza, tumbling half a dozen of them on the sand, but the sun was so excruciatingly hot, that my brains seemed to be boiling, for which reason I got into a palankeen, and proceeded to the principal inn. On my way thither, wishing to speak to one of my messmates, I overset the palankeen by leaning incautiously to one side, and nearly tumbled head foremost into the street. At the inn I was tormented to death by the impertinent persevering of the black people, for every one is a beggar as long as you are reckoned a griffin, or new-comer. I then saw a number of jugglers, and fellows that play with the hooded snake a thousand tricks, though its bite is mortal; and among the rest I saw a fellow swallow a sword. You are not to suppose, however, that this was a Highland broad sword, or even

a horseman's sabre; it was only a broad piece of iron, perfectly blunt at the edges. I then set out to survey the town in the self-same palankeen. The houses had all of them an unearthly appearance, by no means consonant to our ideas of Oriental splendor. The animals differed a good deal from ours, the dogs looked wild and mangy, their hair stood on end, and they had all the appearance of being mad. The cows and bullocks had all bunches on their shoulders, and their necks low, and apparently bowed beneath the burden. The trees were totally different from any that I had seen, and the long hedges of prickly aloes, like large house leeks in their leaves; and spurge, whose knotted and angular branches seemed more like a collection of tape worms than any thing else. The dress of the natives was so various and fantastic, as quite to confuse you; and their complexions of all kinds of motley hues, except the healthy European, red and white. Can you be surprised that

my curiosity was so thoroughly satisfied that I even experienced a considerable degree of sickness, and felt all my senses so dazzled and tormented, that my head ached, and my ears tingled, and I was so completely fatigued by the multitude of new sensations which crowded on me on every side, that to free myself from the torment, like an ox tormented with gad-flies, I took to the water, and got again on ship-board with more satisfaction than I had descried land after a five months' voyage. The first night I slept ashore I was waked by my side smarting very severely, and rolling myself on my side, discovered, with very little satisfaction, that the smart was occasioned by a large animal, which I imagined to be a snake. As the chamber was dark, I disengaged myself from it with as little bustle and violence as possible, not wishing to irritate such an antagonist. With great pleasure I heard it make its way from the couch to the floor, and with great *sang-froid* lay

down to sleep again as quietly as my blistered side would permit. On the morn, however, I discovered it to be a large lizard, termed a blood-sucker here, which nods with its head when you look at it, and it saluted me with a nod from the window like Xailoun's cousin, the Karduwan, in the Arabian Tales, which saluted him so kindly, though it would not condescend to enter into conversation."

NOTE [E.] PAGE lxi.

The vacancy in Duddingstone Church was expected to occur upon another occasion, a very short time before his departure for India. 'I remember well,' says Dr. Anderson*, 'the expression of regret that escaped from him, when I spoke of his rashness in resigning a moderate competence in a respectable station, to pursue a phantom in a foreign land; —*It is too late—I go—the die is cast—I cannot recede.*'

NOTE [F.] PAGE lxxiii.

This letter, which was addressed to the editor of the Bombay Courier,

* In a letter to the writer of this Memoir.

enclosed the following lines, written by Sir John Malcolm, as a tribute to the memory of his deceased friend:—

"Where sleep the brave on Java's strand,
  Thy ardent spirit, Leyden, fled!
And Fame with cypress shades the land,
  Where genius fell, and valour bled.

"When triumph's tale is westward borne,
  On Border hills no joy shall gleam;
And thy lov'd Teviot long shall mourn
  The youthful poet of her stream.

"Near Jura's rocks, the Mermaid's strain
  Shall change from sweet to solemn lay;
For he is gone, the stranger swain,
  Who sung the Maid of Colonsay.

"The hardy tar, Britannia's pride,
  Shall hang his manly head in woe;
The Bard who told how Nelson died,
  With harp unstrung, in earth lies low.

"I see a weeping band arise,
  I hear sad music on the gale;
Thy dirge is sung from Scotia's skies,
  Her mountain sons their loss bewail.

"The Minstrel of thy native North
  Pours all his soul into the song;
It bursts from near the winding Forth,
  And Highland rocks the notes prolong.

"Yes, he who struck a matchless lyre,
O'er Flodden's field, and Katrine's wave,
With trembling hand now leads the choir
That mourn his Leyden's early grave."

Mr. Scott has alluded with regret to the death of his friend in the following lines, from the "Lord of the Isles."

"His bright and brief career is o'er,
And mute his tuneful strains;
Quenched is his lamp of varied lore,
That lov'd the light of song to pour;
A distant and a deadly shore
Has Leyden's cold remains!"

NOTE [G.] PAGE lxxxvii.

That he was not unconscious of the peculiarities of his own character is evinced in the following passage of one of his letters to Dr. Robert Anderson:—

"I often verge so nearly on absurdity, that I know it is perfectly easy to misconceive me, as well as misrepresent me."

FINIS.